

TO : District Administrator Marshalls
High CommissionerDATE: 31 March 1960
File PH 4-8

FROM : Director of Public Health

403819

SUBJECT: Rongelap, Future Medical Care and Evaluations.

As a member of the 1960 medical team to visit the above island I was in the middle of this annual observation for the present year. Because of the things I saw and the findings acquired I have some definite ideas and recommendations to offer for your consideration.

All of the findings, on the spot, this year were negative or so called normal findings. There were only two or three who did not come in for examinations and those were because they did not want to bother not because of illness. The special laboratory technician sent out by A/C was unable to keep his special electronics blood counting machine working therefore our Micronesian laboratory man did most of the actual blood work by microscope. In addition to this there were made by our Micronesian laboratory man 875 blood smears which were taken back to the United States for further study. A few bottles of urine were collected and packed for shipment to Brookhaven Laboratory. The remainder of the information was written in a supplied set of medical sheets by the examining personnel.

There is nothing in the above examination which could not have been done by our own Micronesian medical staff. None of the special people who went on the trip were actually needed. This includes Conrad, Scott, Jaffe, MacDonald. I do feel that the future should be planned as medical care provided by our own staff and the results of any or all examinations can be sent on to Brookhaven with any special laboratory work desired. I am willing to agree that a measuring of the body burden of the people of Rongelap is a reasonable thing once in a while; possibly every five to seven years. The last such measure was done in 1959. By my scale the next is due in 1963 or 1968. To do this sort of thing a truly special team is necessary because of the special equipment involved. This sort of "invasion" should be very infrequent.

The people at Rongelap at the open meeting before the examinations asked why they could not be attended as a usual field trip and why did we bother them with an annual checkup. I feel they would like to return to a normal way and there is nothing in the apparent condition of the people to make me believe that our medical service is inadequate to serve the needs. I am convinced that the Trust Territory should completely control this problem and furnish the A/C laboratory information as they request.

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